

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing conversion of a data stream between two or more communication networks in a communication system, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) establishing a data-path between said communication networks for receiving and transmitting a data stream;
- (b) monitoring said data stream on the data-path between said communication networks for detecting a recognizable pattern in said data stream, said recognizable pattern providing information for converting the data stream into a form suitable for transmission between the communication networks;
- (c) determining whether said recognizable pattern matches a predetermined pattern corresponding to the data stream; and
- (d) if said recognizable pattern matches the predetermined pattern, applying a data conversion operation, and said data conversion operation converting data in the data stream into a form suitable for transmission between the communication networks.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further including the step of providing a pass-through mode to transmit the data stream between the communication networks.

3. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said recognizable pattern comprises first and second bit fields, said first bit field providing data encoding information, and said second bit field providing network information.

4. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said first bit field comprises 12 bits and said data encoding information specifies a voice algorithm, and wherein said second bit field comprises 6 bits for specifying said network information.

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5. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said recognizable pattern appears periodically in the data stream, and said step of applying a data conversion comprises the step of entering a synchronizing state upon detection of said recognizable pattern.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said synchronizing state comprises repeating said recognizable pattern in every data sample in said data stream, and the repeated recognizable pattern in said data stream providing a mechanism for synchronizing the transmission of data between the two communication networks.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6, further including the step of entering an active state in response to the repeated recognizable pattern appearing in said data stream, and said active state comprising transmitting the data stream between the two communication networks according to a transport protocol.

8. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said data stream includes a plurality of PCM samples, and said recognizable pattern is formed as a plurality of bits, each of said bits occupying a predetermined position in said PCM samples.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the bits for said recognizable pattern appear periodically in said PCM samples.

10. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the bits for said recognizable pattern appear in every 31st PCM sample in the data stream, and said periodic appearance in every 31st PCM sample corresponds to a monitoring state.

11. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the bits for said recognizable pattern appear in every PCM sample in the data stream, and said appearance of the bits corresponds to a synchronizing state, wherein the PCM samples are

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transferred between the communication networks according to a transport protocol.

12. In a communication system comprising two or more communication networks, with at least one of said communication networks having a dissimilar transport protocol or a dissimilar data stream payload specification, a system for providing conversion of a data stream between said dissimilar communication network and said other communication network, said system comprising:

- (a) a bridge for coupling said dissimilar communication network to said other communication network, and said bridge providing a data-path for the data stream between said communication networks;
- (b) a component for monitoring said data stream and a component for detecting a predetermined pattern appearing in said data stream; and
- (c) a component responsive to detection of said predetermined pattern for applying a data conversion operation to convert data in the data stream into a form suitable for transmission between said dissimilar communication network and said communication network.

13. The system as claimed in claim 12, further including a component for initiating a pass-through operation to enable transmission of data between said dissimilar communication network and said communication network.

14. The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said predetermined pattern comprises first and second bit fields, said first bit field providing data encoding information, and said second bit field providing network information.

15. The system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said first bit field comprises 12 bits and said data encoding information specifies a voice algorithm, and

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wherein said second bit field comprises 6 bits for specifying said network information.

16. The system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said predetermined pattern appears periodically in the data stream, and said component for initiating a pass-through operation comprises a component for repeating said predetermined pattern in every data sample in said data stream for synchronizing said dissimilar communication network with said other communication network.

17. The system as claimed in claim 16, further including a component for transferring data between said dissimilar communication network and said other communication network according to a transport protocol, said component being responsive to the appearance of the repeated predetermined pattern in said data stream.

18. The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said data stream includes a plurality of PCM samples, and said recognizable pattern is formed as a plurality of bits, each of said bits occupying a predetermined position in said PCM samples, and said recognizable pattern appearing periodically in said PCM samples.

19. A communication system for providing conversion of a data stream between a dissimilar communication network and another communication network in a communication system, said system comprising:

- (a) means for coupling said dissimilar communication network to said other communication network, and said coupling means including means for providing a data-path for the data stream between said communication networks;
- (b) means for monitoring said data stream and means for detecting a predetermined pattern appearing in said data stream; and

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- (c) means responsive to detection of said predetermined pattern for applying a data conversion operation to convert the data stream into a form suitable for transmission between said communication networks.

20. The communication system as claimed in claim 19, further including means for initiating a pass-through operation to enable transmission of the data stream between said dissimilar communication network and said communication network.

21. The communication system as claimed in claim 20, wherein said predetermined pattern comprises first and second bit fields, said first bit field providing data encoding information, and said second bit field providing network information.

22. The communication system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said first bit field comprises 12 bits and said data encoding information specifies a voice algorithm, and wherein said second bit field comprises 6 bits for specifying said network information.

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